

Get to  
know the

# *i-codes*

This is the sixth in a series of publications exploring the differences between the Uniform and International Codes (I-Codes). Topics covered in the series include means of egress, building uses, heights and areas, types of construction, fire-resistance-rated assemblies, accessibility, structural provisions, and the residential and mechanical codes. Additional topics may be added in 2004.

## Accessibility

### About the Codes

The 2003 editions of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical and Fire Codes (I-Codes) replaced the Uniform Codes in Seattle on Aug. 15, 2004\*.

Copies can be purchased from the Public Resource Center (PRC), 20th floor, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave., (206) 684-8467, or:

- WA Assn. of Building Officials  
(360) 586-6725, [www.wabo.org](http://www.wabo.org)
- International Code Council (ICC)  
(800) 284-4406, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

### — I-Codes Training

I-Code trainings are offered by the following organizations:

- WA Assn. of Building Officials  
(360) 586-6725, [www.wabo.org](http://www.wabo.org)
- International Code Council  
(800) 284-4406, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)
- American Inst. of Architects-Seattle, (206) 448-4938  
[www.aiaseattle.org](http://www.aiaseattle.org)
- Structural Engineers Assn. of WA  
(206) 682-6026, [www.seaw.org](http://www.seaw.org)
- Building Industry Assn. of WA  
(360) 352-7800, [www.biaaw.com](http://www.biaaw.com)
- Master Builders Assn. of King & Snohomish Counties  
(425) 451-7920, [www.mba-ks.com](http://www.mba-ks.com)

### — Technical Code Support

- Building Code  
(206) 684-4630  
Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Electrical Code  
(206) 684-5383  
Hours: M/W/F, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Tu/Th, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Energy/Mechanical Code  
(206) 684-7846  
Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

### Accessibility Changes in 2003 Building Code

One of the most interesting changes in the 2003 Seattle Building Code will be in the area of accessibility. The State has decided to adopt Chapter 11 of the International Building Code (IBC) instead of the unique State provisions that have been in effect in Washington since the 1970s.

IBC Chapter 11 contains scoping provisions for accessibility—it tells us when accessible features are required. The IBC adopts ANSI A117.1, "Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities," to tell us how to design and construct accessible features. In addition, some of the unique requirements from the current State Building Code will be carried forward as Washington amendments to the 2003 International Building Code. Since local jurisdictions do not have authority to amend Chapter 11, the State Code will be enforced here with no changes to the accessibility provisions.

The primary reason for this change was a desire for consistency with national standards. International Code Council has worked diligently with the Department of Justice and the Department of

Housing and Urban Development to make Chapter 11 and A117.1 consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act.



Washington state will drop its current accessibility regulations in favor of the IBC's Chapter 11

### Finding the Codes Online

The State Building Code, including Chapter 11, is available on the State Building Code website at [www.sbccc.wa.gov](http://www.sbccc.wa.gov) (click on "State Building Codes" on the left side of the screen). For hard copies, see the information in left-hand box.



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Visit DPD's new  
Technical Codes website:  
[www.seattle.gov/  
dpd/techcodes](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/techcodes)